

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Wrap-up

Governor orders property reassessment for Marion County

July 18, 2007- Governor Mitch Daniels today ordered a reassessment of all real property in Marion County property based on evidence that business assessments were either left undone or performed inaccurately, contributing to an unfair tax burden on homeowners. The governor also said he will freeze tax bills for Marion County at 2006 amounts and recommended that the county issue provisional bills until the reassessment is completed and new bills are issued.

"We're here to solve problems, and we're beginning with the immediate -- at least in Marion County -- today. People need relief now, and we can't have people losing their homes because of unfair taxes," said Daniels.

[Read the news release.](#)

Daniels announces Commission on Local Government Reform

July 18, 2007- Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard and former Governor Joe Kernan have agreed to co-chair a commission to develop recommendations to reform and restructure local government. The Commission on Local Government Reform will begin its work in early August. Other Hoosiers serving on the commission include: Dr. Adam Herbert, Sue Anne Gilroy, Ian Rolland, Louis Mahern and John Stafford.

In late December, the group will publish a report with suggestions on how local governments can increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their operations to lower taxpayer costs. These ideas

State achieves balanced budget

July 16, 2007- Indiana has achieved its first back-to-back balanced budget in eight years, without a state tax increase. State Auditor Tim Berry announced that for the fiscal year ending June 30, revenue exceeded expenditures by \$473.8 million.

Much of the progress in erasing the deficit that Governor Daniels inherited was achieved through effective fiscal management and constraining spending. In the eight years prior to Governor Daniels' administration, spending grew at an average rate of 5.88%. However, since 2005, Governor Daniels has limited spending growth to just under 2.5%.

"Indiana has shown that if you control spending and grow the economy, it is possible to balance a budget without increasing taxes," said Auditor Berry. "Taxpayers expect government to do more with less, and under Governor Daniels leadership, Indiana is doing just that."

[Read the news release.](#)

will be available for the Indiana General Assembly to discuss during its next session beginning in January 2008.

[Read the news release.](#)



July 17, 2007- Pictured from left: Indiana Black Expo President/CEO Joyce Rogers, Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman, Gov. Mitch Daniels, and Reba Harris of Kokomo, a recipient of the Governor's Award for Achievement in Business and Enterprise.

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Offenders and Staff at Westville Correctional Facility Build New Wooden Conference Table for Governor's Office

July 17, 2007 – Alex McEathron is used to a hectic schedule of designing and building countertops, desks and cabinets at the Westville Correctional Facility's carpentry shop. However, last fall, the 14-year employee received a unique request from Department of Correction (DOC) Commissioner J. David Donahue to design and construct a new conference table for the governor's office.

"The old table was rickety and in need of major repairs," Donahue said. "Building a new table was an opportunity to showcase the talent of our staff and offenders."

McEathron finalized the design for a 16-foot long by six-foot wide wooden conference table in late 2006. He enlisted the help of eight offenders and construction of the new table began in January.

The materials for the table come from six varieties of trees on the grounds of the Westville facility. The offenders and McEathron spent 2,000 hours cutting, chiseling, gluing, sanding, staining and finishing the wood. The 900-pound table was completed and delivered to the Governor Mitch Daniels' office in late June.

"When Dave told me he would have a new table made for the office, I wouldn't have dreamed it could be something like this," Gov. Daniels said. "It's the most beautiful piece of furniture I've ever seen and the craftsmanship is second to none."

"It was truly an honor," McEathron said. "We hope the table will be used and enjoyed for generations to come."

Westville is a medium security facility. After completing their sentences, offenders are released back into one of Indiana's 92 counties. The woodworking program here, along with programs at other statewide DOC facilities, offers offenders the opportunity to learn skills they can use when returning to society.

"We help individuals learn constructive activities so they can become productive citizens," Donahue said. "This project shows their professional commitment."

Whirlpool expands Plainfield facility

July 19, 2007- Whirlpool, the world's leading manufacturer and marketer of major home appliances, announced it will expand its national parts distribution and operations center in Plainfield, creating over 150 new jobs.

"Whirlpool joins the long list of companies that have found Indiana's logistics infrastructure and workforce to be among the best in the nation," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

[Read the news release.](#)



July 17, 2007- Governor Daniels is joined by Indiana Department of Correction Commissioner Dave Donahue and staff members from Westville Correctional Facility to unveil the new conference table in the governor's office.

U.S. DOT proposes time zone rule

July 16, 2007- The U.S. Department of Transportation issued a proposed rule that would move the time zone boundary for Knox, Daviess, Martin, Pike and Dubois counties from the Central Time Zone to the Eastern Time Zone. These counties submitted a joint petition requesting the change in 2006.

Governor Daniels said if this proposed rule is finalized, Indiana will have more Hoosiers on the same time all year round than the state has had in many years.

A look ahead...

Governor Daniels will travel to Washington, Huntingburg, Newburgh, Evansville and Vincennes this week.